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THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

2400 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-2400



November 23, 1993 THE
I-93/07408 DEFENSE

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MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE NOV 23 1993
THROUGH: UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR POLICY
FROM: Assistant Secretary of Defense FOR Regional
Security Affairs
SUBJECT: Seattle APEC Meeting: China, etc. --
INFORMATION MEMORANDUM (U)

(U) At your direction, last Thursday I traveled on short notice to Seattle to participate with LTG Barry McCaffrey in activities connected with the historic, Presidentially-hosted APEC meeting. I arrived too late for the China prebrief but was included in the President's meeting with President Jiang Zemin.

~~(S)~~ President Clinton was highly effective in presenting a strategic case for hard work by both sides to advance US-China relations. This message registered. []

[] The succession to Deng Xiaoping is clearly in full flux and, as might be expected, leads to extreme

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caution by Chinese leaders.

[S] Despite the absence of "give-and-take" I believe the meeting was nevertheless worthwhile; it will yet give us important opportunities to pursue a positive agenda with China. The President's respectfully strategic approach will be welcome not just to those Chinese officials who attended the meeting but also to the broader leadership and political elite in Beijing. I am optimistic that, with continued effort on our part, we will see progress on key issues before long.

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[S] More broadly, the Seattle APEC meeting was a rare instance of highly favorable Press coverage not amounting to hyperbole. A meeting at which over fifty percent of global GNP was represented in a single room and which included Beijing, Hong Kong, Taipei and Jakarta, inter alia, is an extraordinary achievement for the President and a major plus for US international leadership. I look forward to the opportunity to discuss this event directly with you when time permits.

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